

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 01432 311920Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13
OES-06 /075 W
-----312303Z 126680 /70

R 311345Z JAN 77
FM AMDBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0901
INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
USUN NEW YORK 2114
CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 1432

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, IN, BG
SUBJECT: FOREIGN SECRETARY COMMENTS ON FARAKKA

1. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS FROM THE POLCOUNSELOR AND SEVERAL OTHER DIPLOMATS AT A DINNER JANUARY 28, FONSEC JAGAT MEHTA SAID NEXT STEP IN INDO-BANGLADESH RELATIONS SO FAR AS FARAKKA WAS CONCERNED WAS UP TO THE BANGLADESHIS. INDIA WOULD WATCH TO SEE HOW PUBLICLY AND DIPLOMATICALLY THE BDG PRESSED ITS VIEWS AND CRITICISM OF THE GOI AND WOULD MAKE ITS OWN RESPONSES ACCORDINGLY. HE SAID THAT DOMESTIC INDIAN POLITICAL SENSITIVITIES WERE CERTAINLY A PROBLEM IN THE MOST RECENT ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS, BUT THE BASIC ISSUE WAS THAT THERE WERE GENUINE LIMITATIONS ON HOW MUCH WATER THE GOI COULD CUT BACK FROM THE CALCUTTA PORT PROJECT. CALCUTTA PORT ENGINEERS NOTED THAT AS A RESULT OF FARAKKA OPERATION, DREDGING HAD BEEN SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED IN THE PORT AREA THIS LAST YEAR. GAINS MADE THUS FAR WOULD BE LOST IF WATER FLOW WAS REDUCED TOO FAR. THERE WAS NO
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PAGE 02 NEW DE 01432 311920Z

DOUBT, MEHTA SAID, THAT THERE WAS SOME ECOLOGICAL AND ECONOMIC DAMAGE TO BANGLADESH FROM THE DIVERSION OF WATER; THE QUESTION WAS "HOW MUCH?" THERE WAS REAL URGENCY IN MOVING AHEAD TO DISCUSS A LONG-TERM RESOLUTION OF THE WATER PROBLEM, BUT THE DIFFICULTY WAS THIS COULD NOT BE DONE WITHOUT A PRIOR AGREEMENT ON THE SHORT-TERM PROBLEM.

2. MEHTA SAID THAT HE HAD THE FEELING THE BANGLADESH SIDE
HAD BEEN HOLDING SOME PROPOSAL IN RESERVE WHICH THEY HAD
NOT SURFACED AT THIS LAST MEETING, BUT DID NOT KNOW WHAT IT
MIGHT BE. HE DID NOT WISH TO SPECULATE ON WHEN DISCUSSIONS
MIGHT BE RESUMED.

SCHNEIDER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WATER DIVERSION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 31-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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